

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In this, the first Action in the case, the Examiner rejected all claims as being obvious over prior art. Claims 1-5 and 10-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Prabhu et al. (US 20020076034A1) in view of Mercer (US 5,563,952). Claims 6-9 and 15-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Prabhu et al. in view of Mercer and Felder et al. (US 6,608,896B2). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Prabhu et al. teach use of a plurality of Goertzel filters to detect telecommunications control signals, silence, and (by inference) voice. As applicants note in the application, the use of Goertzel filters for control-tone detection is well known (see page 1, line 22, to page 2, line 6). Prabhu et al. tune all of their Goertzel filters to the frequencies at which control signals may occur (see, e.g., page 11, paragraphs 0114 and 0115). In contrast, applicants' claims explicitly recite Goertzel filters "operating at frequencies other than the control signals' frequencies." There is no corresponding disclosure, teaching, or suggestion in Prabhu et al.

Furthermore, Prabhu et al. do not positively detect the presence of voice, but merely infer it from the absence of detection of control signals or silence (see, e.g., page 4, par. 0052, and p. 17, par.s 0178-0180). In contrast, applicants' claims recite positively detecting the presence of voice by means of "at least three of the filters simultaneously detecting energy above a noise threshold and below a control signal threshold" or "at least three of the filters each detecting energy whose ratio exceeds a voice threshold." Again, there is no corresponding disclosure, teaching, or suggestion in Prabhu et al.

The Examiner referenced Mercer for teaching "distinguishing voice from noise," and referenced Felder et al. for teaching, "applying windows for detecting DTMF tones using a modified non-uniform DFT." These references do not cure the fundamental failure of Prabhu et al. to teach the claimed invention. Consequently, none of these three references,

considered either alone or in combination, disclose, teach, or suggest the claimed invention.

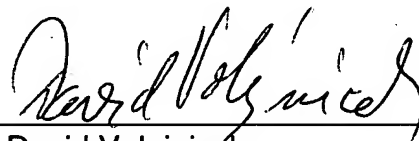
For these reasons, applicants respectfully assert that the references do not render their claimed invention unpatentable. They therefore request that the Section 103(a) rejections of their claims be withdrawn.

The Examiner's rejections having been properly addressed and overcome, applicants respectfully suggest that their application is now in condition for allowance. They therefore respectfully request that the application be reconsidered and thereafter be passed to issue.

Applicants believe the foregoing to be dispositive of all issues in the application. But if the Examiner should deem that a telephone interview would expedite prosecution, they request the Examiner to call their attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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